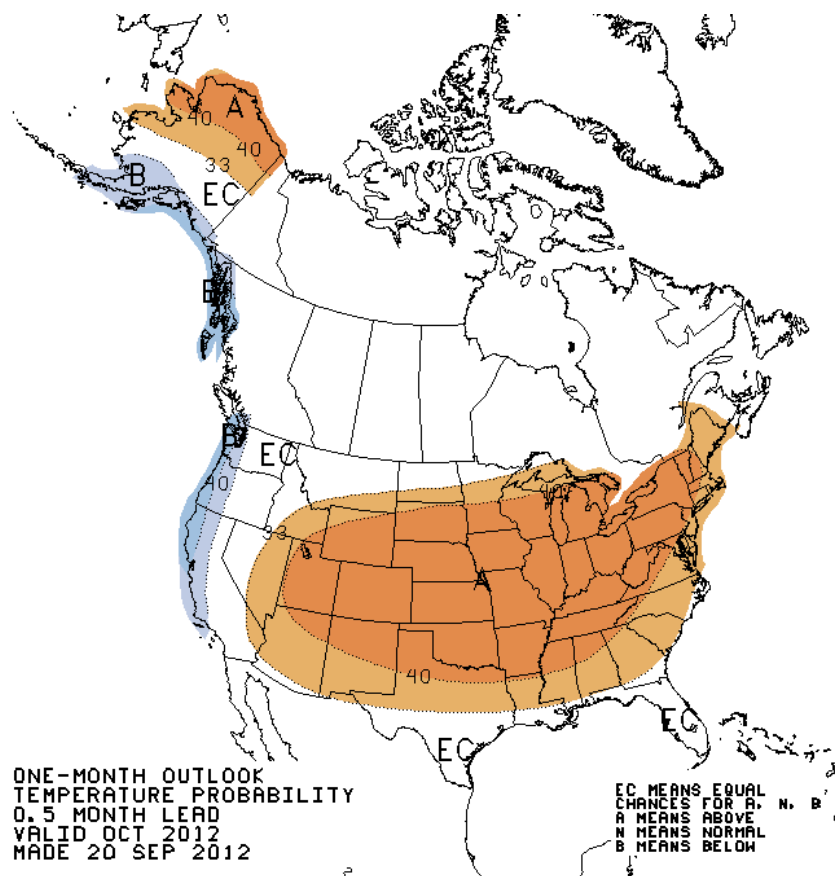# North Central United States October & October-November-December 2012 Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Climate Outlook and Summary
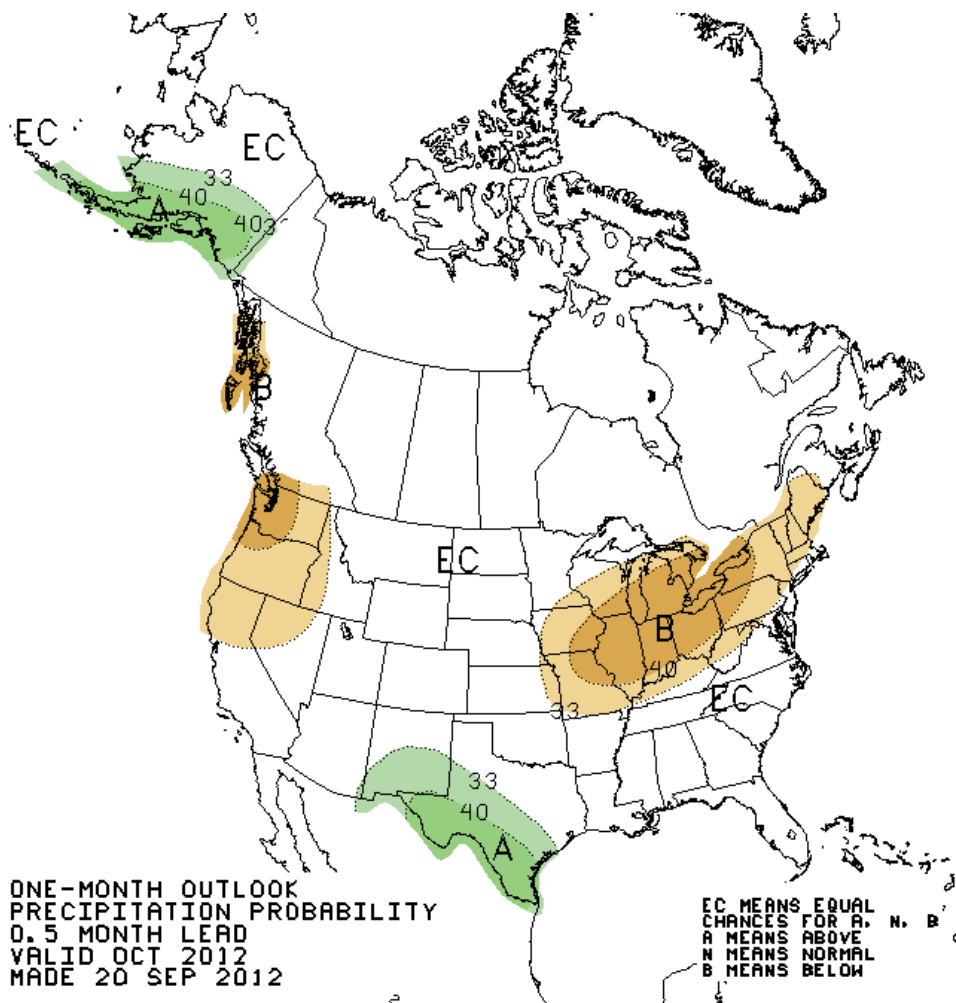
October Temperature Outlook:

A good portion of the North Central United States has a higher than usual chance of above-normal temperatures for October. The best chance of warmer than normal temperatures will exist through most of South Dakota, southern Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa, with a greater than 40% chance of temperatures above-normal relative climatology (as well as a 33% chance of near-normal temperatures and a 17% to 27% of below-normal temperatures). Bordering this area, southern North Dakota and central Minnesota will have a 33% to 40% chance of temperatures above-normal (and a 33% chance of near-normal, and a 27% to 33% chance of below-normal temperatures relative to climatology). To the north of this, the northern portions of North Dakota and Minnesota will have an equal chance of above-normal, normal, or below-normal temperatures relative to climatology, with no strong climate signal indicating one category over another.

ONE-MONTH OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID OCT 2012
MADE 20 SEP 2012

EC MEANS EQUAL
CHANCES FOR A, N, B
A MEANS ABOVE
N MEANS NORMAL
B MEANS BELOW

October Precipitation Outlook:

For the month of October, the majority of the North Central U.S. will have equal chances of any of the three categories; i.e. a 33% chance of above-normal precipitation, a 33% chance of near-normal precipitation, and a 33% chance of below-normal precipitation. However there will be a couple of exceptions, with a chance for drier than normal conditions over portions of southern Minnesota and northern and western Iowa, with a 33% to 40% chance of below-normal precipitation relative to climatology (and a 33% chance of near-normal precipitation, and a 27% to 33% chance of wetter than normal conditions).   Southeastern Iowa will have an even greater chance of drier conditions, with a 40% chance or greater of drier than normal conditions (as well as a 33% chance of near-normal precipitation and a 17% to 27% chance of above-normal precipitation for the period).

EC   EC

EC

33
40
403
A

B

EC

B
40

EC

33

33
40
A

ONE-MONTH OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID OCT 2012
MADE 20 SEP 2012

EC MEANS EQUAL
CHANCES FOR A, N, B
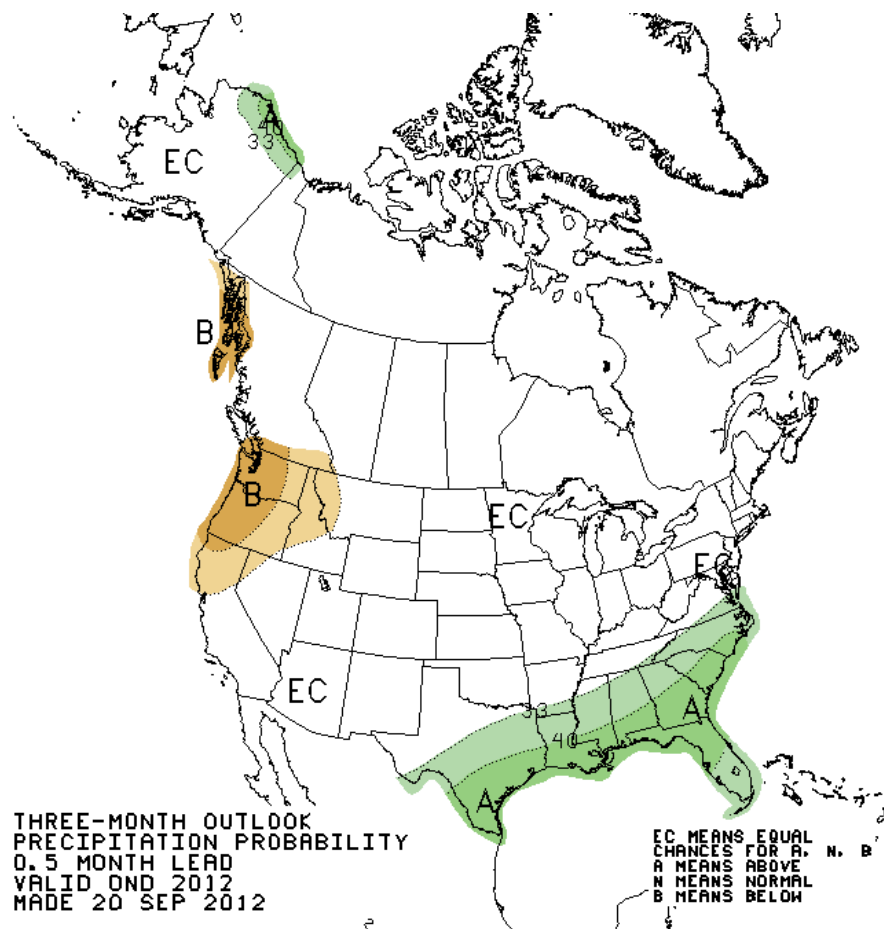A MEANS ABOVE
N MEANS NORMAL
B MEANS BELOW

October - December Temperature Outlook:

The entire region is expected to be warmer than normal for the late autumn/early winter months. The best chance of above-normal temperatures relative to climatology will occur over the eastern portions of the Dakotas and Nebraska, and over most of Minnesota and all of Iowa, where there will be a 40% chance or greater of above-normal temperatures for the period (with a 33% chance of near-normal temperatures, and a 17% to 27% chance of below-normal temperatures relative to climatology). Surrounding this area, there will be a 33% to 40% chance of warmer than normal temperatures (and a 33% chance of near-normal temperatures, and a 27% to 33% chance of below-normal temperatures for the period).
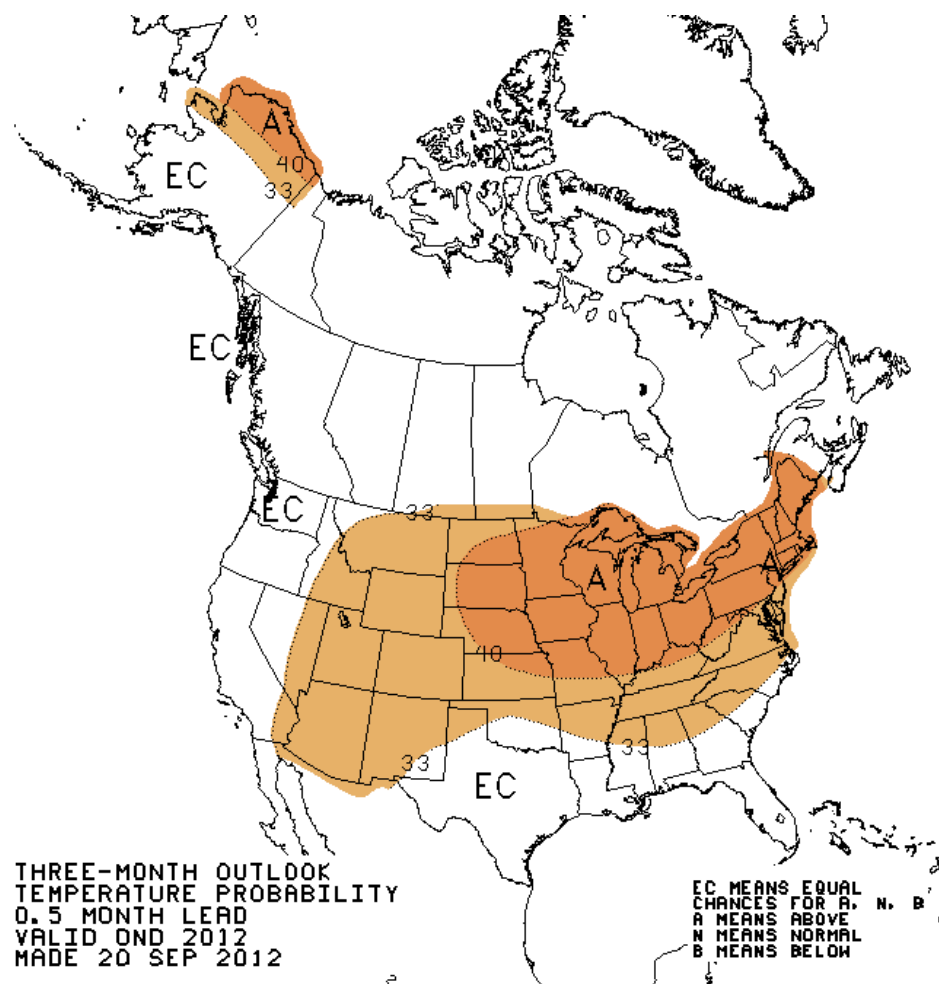
October – December Precipitation Outlook:

The entire North Central United States will have equal chances of above-normal (33%), near-normal (33%), or below-normal (33%) precipitation for October through December, with no strong climate signal preferring one category over another.

THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID OND 2012
MADE 20 SEP 2012

EC MEANS EQUAL
CHANCES FOR A, N, B
A MEANS ABOVE
N MEANS NORMAL
B MEANS BELOW

Seasonal Drought Outlook

The most recent Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates that the drought will develop in areas which are not currently experiencing drought, and persist or intensify over areas already in drought conditions.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid for September 20 - December 31, 2012
Released September 20, 2012

KEY:
- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

Seasonal Outlook Interpretation Guide

The outlooks indicate probability of being in three specific categories in reference to the 30-year climatology from 1981-2010:

Temperature		Precipitation	
Social Science	**Climate Science**	**Social Science**	**Climate Science**
Uncommonly Cold	Below Normal Tercile	Uncommonly Wet	Above Normal Tercile
Uncommonly Warm	Above Normal Tercile	Uncommonly Dry	Below Normal Tercile
Moderate (Neither Warm Nor Cold)	Normal Tercile	Moderate (Neither Wet nor Dry)	Normal Tercile

The National Weather Service Seasonal Climate Outlooks predict the probability of conditions being among the warmest/coldest or wettest/driest terciles of years compared to the period of 1981-2010:

Precip	Temp	Probability of Occurence			Most likely category
		Above	**Near**	**Below**	
		80.0%-90.0%	16.7%-06.7%	03.3%	"Above"
		70.0%-80.0%	26.7%-16.7%	03.3%	"Above"
		60.0%-70.0%	33.3%-26.7%	06.7%-03.3%	"Above"
		50.0%-60.0%	33.3%	16.7%-06.7%	"Above"
		40.0%-50.0%	33.3%	26.7%-16.7%	"Above"
		33.3%-40.0%	33.3%	33.3%-26.7%	"Above"
		33.3%-30.0%	33.3%-40.0%	33.3%-30.0%	"Near Normal"
		30.0%-25.0%	40.0%-50.0%	30.0%-25.0%	"Near Normal"
		33.3%-26.7%	33.3%	33.3%-40.0%	"Below"
		26.7%-16.7%	33.3%	40.0%-50.0%	"Below"
		16.7%-06.7%	33.3%	50.0%-60.0%	"Below"
		06.7%-03.3%	33.3%-26.7%	60.0%-70.0%	"Below"
		03.3%	26.7%-16.7%	70.0%-80.0%	"Below"
		03.3%	16.7%-06.7%	80.0%-90.0%	"Below"
		33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	"Equal Chances"